COLCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Colchester, CT

BUDGET COMMITTEE - SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, November 4, 2021
BOE Budget Committee Meeting 9:00AM
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Jessica Morozowich, Joanne Rose
ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Superintendent Jeffrey Burt, CFO Maggie Cosgrove, Director of Educational Operations Mario Hurtado, Director of Digital Learning and Innovation Darren Smith
OTHERS PRESENT: BOE Chair Mary Tomasi, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent Amy Trinnaman

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Call to Order

Chair Morozowich called the meeting to order at 9:05AM.

2. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

3.1 Public Comment

None.

4. *APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 Approval of October 7, 2021 Minutes

Motion by: J. Rose
To approve the minutes of the October 7, 2021 Budget Committee meeting
Second by: J. Morozowich
Vote: Unanimous
Roll call: J. Rose, J. Morozowich

5. *PRIORITY DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Zoom Room Conferencing Discussion

Due to the Governor's Executive Order, BOE is holding virtual meetings until April 2022. However, after that date, providing “hybrid” meeting access will be required. Both in-person and online attendance will be possible with new technology. Director of Digital Learning and Innovation Darren Smith provided information on a solution that has sound, video, and streaming capabilities. Zoom Room allows a virtual audience to interact with the in-person audience. The proposed system, which includes a wireless microphone system, would be installed in Town Hall, in Rooms 1 and 2. Funding

sources (possible ARPA grant funding) and alternate systems were discussed. This system could be shared with the Town. Increased public participation is a key goal.

This item will go before the full BOE in January 2022 for a full presentation and a thorough discussion.

5.2 *Approval of 2022 Budget Committee Meeting Dates

Motion by: J. Rose
To approve the revision to the proposed 2022 Budget Committee Meeting Dates to have a meeting start time of 9:00AM
Second by: J. Morozowich
Vote: Unanimous
Roll call: J. Rose, J. Morozowich

Motion by: J. Rose
To approve the proposed 2022 Budget Committee Meeting Dates as amended.
Second by: J. Morozowich
Vote: Unanimous
Roll call: J. Rose, J. Morozowich

6. BUDGET REPORTS

6.1 Monthly Budget Reports

CFO Cosgrove presented the October 2021 budget report. Certified Salary amounts were reclassified to the ARPA grant after revisions to the grant were made related to funding SPED positions. Funding for social workers was originally reduced from the BOE budget, however in order to maximize Medicaid funding of positions, the social workers will be funded from the budget and teaching positions will be moved to the ARPA grant – see Item 8.1 Budget transfers over $5,000. There has been an increase in Vo-Ag attendance. We are also reviewing possible reclassification of some expenditures associated with a reconfiguration of two Bacon Academy classrooms.

6.2 Cafeteria Fund

Committee Chair Morozowich requested that a status report of the cafeterias program be discussed at the full BOE meeting on November 9, 2021. CFO Cosgrove explained that it is too soon to predict the long-term financial health of the program. The supply chain problems are still impacting food deliveries. Director of Food Services Leanne Ranheim is ensuring that students are receiving meals despite the uncertainty of the supply chain.

6.3 Health Insurance Reserve

CFO Cosgrove shared the September 2021 health insurance reserve report. The medical claims were lower than in previous years. Based on the timing of the rolling data used in determining the calculations for the following year's budget, because we are at a good point as far as claims are concerned, the budget would be based on these favorable figures. Whether or not the trend downwards will continue is uncertain. There have not been significant changes to the number of employees on the plan, or changes to the plan itself. Superintendent Burt suggested a review of the last five years' figures. A strategy

meeting is scheduled with Lockton for later this month. Further information will be presented to the Budget Committee after that meeting.

6.4 Special Education Excess Cost Report (Not at this time)

6.5 Use of Schools (Not at this time)

6.6 Capital Reserve (Not at this time)

6.7 Budget Transfers Under $5,000
This budget transfer within the CES budget accounts is due to the need to purchase the paid version of the software because of the pandemic and the need to provide instruction to students in quarantine.

7. OLD BUSINESS

7.1 Update on Federal Grants
Changes to the use of ARPA grant funds are underway to ensure efficient use. ESSER II is also being reviewed for certified positions.

8. *NEW BUSINESS

8.1 *Budget Transfer Over $5,000
Budget transfer in the amount of $150,213 (Special Education/ARPA ESSER grants)

8.2 *Budget Transfer Over $5,000
Budget transfers in the amounts of $37,740, $37,620, and $38,080 (JJIS/WJJMS teacher assignments)

8.3 *Budget Transfer Over $5,000
Budget transfer in the amount of $47,644 (Union Settlements)

8.4 *Budget Transfer Over $5,000
Budget transfer in the amount of $27,648 (non-union merit pay)

CFO Cosgrove explained each of the four budget transfers.

Motion by: J. Rose
To approve the budget transfers in agenda items 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, and 8.4 and move to the full BOE for approval
Second by: J. Morozowich
Vote: Unanimous
Roll call: J. Rose, J. Morozowich

9. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NEW ISSUES RAISED OR SUBJECTS DEVELOPED

9.1 Public Comment

10. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 10:08AM.